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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

202-452-1805

Lyndon Smith

102 Center St. , Moncks Corner, SC 29461

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August 4, 2004 4:11 PM

Administrator Marion Blakey
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401400 Seventh Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Docket Number: FAA-2004-18596 - 361

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I urge you to finalize the proposed rule to permit the use of certain portable oxygen concentrator devices on aircraft.

Over one million Americans have medical conditions that require the use of supplemental oxygen to engage in activities of daily living. With appropriate supplemental oxygen, patients can lead full, productive lives. Many patients enjoy all the travel and leisure activities - except airline travel.

This proposed rule is a step in the right direction to help passengers that require supplemental oxygen travel easier. However the proposed rule should be strengthened by having the FAA require all airlines to permit the use of FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators. Please ensure the final rule requires FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators be allowed on board all civilian air travel.

This is considered a handicap. I have handicapped parking permits. I have not traveled since I began using supplemental oxygen. The small tanks last about 1-3 hours depending on the liters per minute. I know this may be a problem hooking up to this, but perhaps a certain few seats could be hooked up with medical oxygen. Taxpayers money(including those of us on supplemental oxygen) was used as loans to bail out the airlines after the financial loss after 9/11 attacks. I am sure the airlines would like to accomodate everyone with every type of disability, but that is nearly impossible. Thank you for looking into this problem.

Sincerely, Lyndon H. Smith 102 Center St.
Moncks Corner, S.C., 29461

Sincerely,

Lyndon Smith